

# The Original Prospectus

## Comments by David Fenn

The following pages show the original Hurn Court School prospectus. This would have been produced shortly after the school opened as it features the early boy intake.

Interestingly, it shows Christchurch to be in Hampshire and the telephone exchange is Boscombe.

I wonder how many of us aspired to the objectives set out in CHARACTER?

Did anyone actually study Latin as outlined in LANGUAGES?

The fees of 75gns per term seem very reasonable by today's standards, although note that day pupils only paid 32gns! If one assumes that 32gns represents only tuition fees, it follows that full time boarders had all their meals provided for 43gns per term! (£45.15 in today's money!) Assuming the average term to be 10 weeks or 70 days (including Saturdays and Sundays); this boils down to 65p per day! 3 square meals each for 21.5p!! No wonder we had the farm for milk and spuds etc!

Old Doc Fisher (Fither) gets a mention in MEDICAL and look at the medical history form asking if you had ever wetted the bed!! I remember dorm 8 was the bed wetters dorm, their beds being fitted with home made alarms to ring a bell when the urine completed a circuit between two plates! Yuk.

25p per week went a long way in those days as outlined in POCKET MONEY. Old George Moore ran the tuck shop and would sell single Woodbines or Weights to those of us that craved them!

# HURN COURT SCHOOL

*Headmaster :*

P. G. TYLER  
L.C.P., F.R.H.S., M.R.S.T.

CHRISTCHURCH - HAMPSHIRE

*Telephone : Boscombe 35812*

## **LOCATION**

Hurn Court stands in an attractive setting on the outskirts of Bournemouth, bounded on three sides by the farmlands of the Earl of Malmesbury and, on the fourth, by the village of Holdenhurst. It adjoins the historic town of Christchurch and is only three-and-a-half miles from the centre of Bournemouth. The River Stour meanders lazily through the grounds and a tributary widens out to form an ornamental lake, at one time used by the monks of Christchurch Priory as a fish preserve. An interesting feature of the estate is the 300-year-old monks' rhododendron walk. The district is well-known for a healthy, equable climate; the gravel sub-soil, sea air and long hours of sunshine making it an ideal situation for a boarding school.

## **HISTORY**

Before the Reformation the house was the summer hunting lodge of the Priors of Christchurch. It was, however, almost entirely rebuilt by the first Earl of Malmesbury, of diplomatic fame, and a long, low farm-house, surrounded after the fashion of the day by its own farm buildings, was converted into a stately Elizabethan structure. The ground floor is still practically untouched from those days, only the ceilings having been altered to provide an additionally attractive feature. The southern wing of Hurn Court, built by the first Earl of Malmesbury, comprises a charming suite of rooms with staircase leading to the gardens and here the Earl enjoyed his remaining years in peace after an arduous, distinguished career. Additions were made to the property by succeeding Earls and to-day the Court enjoys all modern amenities while retaining character in environmental setting.

## **BUILDINGS**

The buildings lend themselves admirably to the purpose for which they are being used. The magnificent suite of reception rooms, lofty and well-lighted, are the School Rooms. Adjoining the main building, the practical rooms and gymnasium are equally spacious and fully equipped. Sleeping accommodation is in the bedrooms used by the previous owners and their household and as, of necessity, there can only be a small number of boys in each, a homely atmosphere is assured.

Hurn Court School is an Independent Boarding School, offering a continuous education on the lines of a modern Public School. High standards of work and effort are expected from all boys, but moral training and formation of character are considered as important as academic achievement. The inculcation of good manners and gentlemanly conduct, together with habits of clear thinking, courtesy and self-reliance are among the primary objectives.

## **CHARACTER**

The School is staffed with fully qualified specialist teachers, carefully selected not only for high academic qualifications but for their experience and ability in the art of teaching. There is accommodation for 150 boys and emphasis of the School is on individual, personal tuition and attention, a high ratio of staff to boys being maintained. Every effort is made to take boys to the very limit of their ability in all subjects, and at the same time the system is admirably suited for coaching boys in any subjects in which they may not be up to standard.

## **STAFF**

The Curriculum is designed to give a broad general education to those boys who intend to follow a vocation requiring practical rather than high academic ability.

## **CURRICULUM**

Practical subjects prominent in the curriculum include Agriculture, Horticulture, Woodwork, Building Construction, Metalwork and Electrical Engineering. The School Farm is near at hand and is used for practical instruction. The student translates classroom theory into practical farming, with special reference to dairy pedigree cattle, pigs, poultry, fruit and arable land. Instruction is under the combined supervision of a specialist teacher (B.Sc., Agriculture) and a farmer with many years of practical experience. The Farm is equipped with modern machinery. Agricultural Science and Biology are taught in the laboratory. The book-keeping and economics of farming keep pace with the practical application. In addition to the farm land, there is ample provision for market garden and the cultivation of all vegetables.

The School has a fully-equipped woodwork room, and also a metalwork and light engineering workshop. Instruction in these subjects, together with electrical engineering and Drawing Office practice is given by fully qualified staff.

Although there is a strong bias towards the practical subjects, special attention is given to English Language, both written and spoken, and to Mathematics.

Pupils are given every opportunity to undertake courses in their selected subjects. In addition to preparation for the General Certificate of Education, every help is given to Agricultural and Engineering students to proceed to degree and diploma studies as well as to various Colleges and Farm Institutes.

**PHYSICAL  
EDUCATION  
AND GAMES**

Not least among the School's activities is the maintenance of a high physical standard by every boy. The environment of the School—regular hours of work, recreation and sleep, coupled with ample meals, including fresh vegetables, fruit and farm produce from our own grounds—offers the necessary background to the Gymnastic instruction. Formal lessons are given in the Gymnasium, but whenever possible in this equable climate the training is in the open air, on the spacious lawns. Every facility exists for additional exercise—walking, camping, cross-country running and swimming.

Association and Rugby Football, Cricket, Tennis and Athletics are fostered under expert guidance and every boy is expected to take part in the games and physical activities.

**MUSIC**

Individual Tuition in Pianoforte and Violin can be arranged upon request.

**LANGUAGES**

Classes in modern languages and Latin are arranged as required, and as part of the curriculum for the General Certificate of Education, but are not compulsory.

The weekly time-table is so arranged that every boy has sufficiently long periods for useful and worth-while out-of-school activities and hobbies. There is no work before breakfast, morning school commencing after a short Morning Service at 9 a.m. Each afternoon there are some outdoor activities, including games, but there is a period of school lessons between 4.30 and 6.30 p.m., except on Saturdays which are half-holidays. There is ample provision for private study. No school work is done on Sundays, but after morning service the boys are free to pursue their chosen hobbies and recreational pursuits, under supervision of the resident staff.

#### **TIME-TABLE**

Church Services and Divinity teaching are in accordance with the practice and teaching of the Church of England. Boys of any Creed may be admitted to the School, but they are required to attend the Morning Services and Divinity classes, but not Church Services other than those of their own denominations.

#### **DIVINITY**

By arrangement with the Vicar of Holdenhurst, the Rev. W. Stedmond, the boys attend morning service on Sundays at Holdenhurst Parish Church, and he has kindly consented to prepare pupils for Confirmation where desired. A Confirmation Service is arranged specially for the boys by the Bishop of Winchester.

There are a number of voluntary School Societies and Clubs and these activities are directed and encouraged by the Staff. Participation is during free time and at week-ends. Dramatics, Music (Choral and Instrumental), Debating, Nature Club (including Bird Watching), Art, Chess, Photography, Fencing, Gymnastics and Boxing are among the hobbies thus encouraged. The 18th Christchurch (Hurn Court) Sea Scouts provide popular group activities.

#### **VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES**

Adequate Library facilities are provided for reference and light reading. A cinematograph sound projector is used for instructional and feature films.

A full report of work and conduct is sent to parents at the end of each Term.

#### **REPORTS**

The School offers a comprehensive vocational guidance service. Enquiries should be addressed to The Bursar.

#### **VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE**

## ENTRY

Application for admission should be made to The Headmaster. There is no written entrance examination.

A Certificate of good conduct may be required from the boy's last School.

Normal age range of the Senior School is 11 to 18 years, but application may be made for boys who are slightly younger. Those who require to do so may take the General Certificate of Education. Boys may continue at the School until they are 18, if their parents desire it, and so long as some useful purpose is being served by a continuation of their stay.

## FEES

The School Fees are :

Under 13 years of age	65 Guineas per Term	
Age 13 to 14 ... ..	70 Guineas per Term	100 gns.
Over 14 ... ..	75 Guineas per Term	

payable in advance.

**The Fees are completely inclusive, and parents are not required to pay for any extras. Books, stationery, laundry, sports, games and linen are thus included.**

A Registration Fee of Three Guineas is payable when the Enrolment Form is submitted and this fee is non-returnable.

A reduction in Fees (normally 10%) is allowed to Parents having two or more boys at the School at the same time.

Application may be made to pay a Composition Fee in advance, to cover the whole of the boy's education for his full time at the School, or for a minimum period of two years. Under this scheme a 10% discount is allowed for the lump sum payment, with guaranteed repayment of any balance where the pupil is withdrawn for any reason before expiration of the full period. Full particulars may be obtained from The Secretary to the School, Harold Walker, Esq., Solicitor, Lansdowne House, Bournemouth.

A Full Term's Notice is required, in writing, prior to the removal of a boy. In lieu of this a Full Term's Fees must be paid. No remission is made for absence through illness or for any other cause for the whole or part of a Term. Parents are recommended to make use of the School Fees Insurance Scheme to protect themselves against loss in this respect and information may be obtained on request to The Headmaster.

Boys will normally be expected to leave the School for the holidays, but if parents are abroad, or other special circumstances arise, alternative arrangements for accommodation may be suggested by The Headmaster.

#### **HOLIDAYS**

Prior to admission of a boy, parents are required to submit a Medical Report. There is a qualified nurse on the Staff, and the School Physician, Dr. J. Fisher, M.B., B.CHIR., is in regular attendance. Fees include all general nursing and medical attendance, but not special treatments or consultations. The parent is responsible for the fees of any specialist or surgeon if in the opinion of The Headmaster, in consultation with the School Physician, National Health Service facilities are not available at the time to meet emergency or specialist requirements.

#### **MEDICAL**

Distinctive School dress is a blazer, with badge and tie, worn with grey flannel trousers. Best suits are dark grey. The only additions to a boy's normal wardrobe are a dark blue track suit, for use before and after playing games, and a boiler suit for use when doing practical work.

#### **DRESS**

The School Colours are light blue, dark blue and silver.

The School is situated two-and-a-half miles from Central Station, Bournemouth, and is readily accessible by rail from all parts of the country. Adequate coach facilities exist from The Square, Bournemouth.

#### **TRAVELLING**

Boys are not normally permitted visits during the Term, but The Headmaster may grant permission in exceptional circumstances and where such visits coincide with the half-holidays or on Sundays after morning service. No boy is allowed out with anyone other than parents or legal guardians. In every circumstance, written requests given in ample time must be forwarded to The Headmaster for prior confirmation.

#### **VISITS BY PARENTS**

**POCKET MONEY** Boys place their pocket money in the School Bank and are paid out weekly. The maximum sum drawn is 5/- per week, but it is by no means essential that all boys be allowed this amount.

**INTERVIEWS** The Headmaster is pleased to see parents at the School at any time, by appointment.

**DAY SCHOLARS** A limited number of places are reserved for boys who reside locally and can attend daily. **Transport to and from School is the responsibility of the parents.**

Senior Day Scholars are expected to take part in the corporate life of the School, staying for lunch, taking part in the outdoor activities of the afternoon session, having tea at School and remaining for evening lessons. Senior Day Scholars may remain at School to do their Preparation if desired.

Fees, inclusive of meals and all other extras :

Under 13 years of age : 27 Guineas per Term

Over 13 years of age: 32 Guineas per Term.

\* \* \*

Further information concerning the School may be obtained from :

The Bursar,

V. T. SEARLE-JORDAN, ESQ., F.B.F.P.S., F.I.A.I.,

Hurn Court School,

Christchurch, Hants.

# HURN COURT SCHOOL

## CLOTHING LIST

- x Raincoat, Blue
- Best Suit, Dark Grey (Pattern from Daniel Neal)
- ✓ Second Suit, for general School wear
- ✓ \*Trousers, Grey, two pairs
- ✓ Shirts, Grey, three
- Vests, three (and Pants, if worn)
- Socks (or Stockings), six pairs
- ✓ Wellington Boots, one pair
- ~~✓ Sandals, or Indoor Shoes, with heels, one pair~~
- Plimsolls, White, one pair
- Plimsolls, Black, one pair
- Shorts, White, for Gym, two pairs ~~one~~ *one*
- Shorts, Blue, for P.T. and Games, two pairs ~~one~~ *one*
- Sweater, White
- ✓ Towels, medium size, four
- Pyjamas, two pairs
- ✓ Dressing Gown
- Handkerchiefs
- Boiler Suit

### DISTINCTIVE SCHOOL DRESS

Blazer, Tie and Cap (to be obtained from any branch of Daniel Neal & Sons Ltd.)

### WINTER SPORTS

Football Boots  
Football Shirts, one White, one Blue  
(Daniel Neal)

### SUMMER SPORTS

Cricket Shirts, three  
Cricket Trousers or Shorts  
Cricket Boots.

### ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH BOY'S NAME

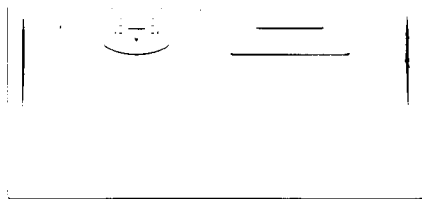
### OTHER ITEMS

Boys taking part in Practical Farming must have old clothes to wear under Boiler Suit. (N.B.—Old overcoat for winter use)

\*One pair for wear with Blazer; one old pair to be worn under Boiler Suit.

### ESSENTIAL SUNDRIES

Medical Card, Identity Number, Hymn and Prayer Book (if C. of E.), and Toilet Requisites, including shoe cleaning brushes.



To: The Headmaster, Hurn Court School, Christchurch, Hants.

ENROLMENT OF PUPIL FOR HURN COURT SCHOOL

FOR TERM COMMENCING.....

PUPIL'S SURNAME..... DATE OF BIRTH:...../...../.....

„ CHRISTIAN NAMES.....

NAME OF PARENT  
OR GUARDIAN .....

POSTAL ADDRESS .....

TELEPHONE: HOME..... BUSINESS.....

PUPIL'S PREVIOUS SCHOOLS  
WITH DATES & ADDRESSES.....

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION.....

FEE:.....

ANY COMMENTS OR INFORMATION YOU FEEL MAY BE HELPFUL

Having read the Prospectus of the School, I undertake to comply with the provisions applicable to a Parent as contained therein.

I enclose Registration Fee of THREE GUINEAS.

Signature of Parent/Guardian .....

Date: ...../...../.....

Hurn Court School, Christchurch, Hampshire.

MEDICAL INFORMATION: Please complete and return to the Headmaster.

Name of Pupil: ..... Initials .....

Above-named has already had the following: (Write YES where applicable)

Chicken Pox: ..... Diphtheria: ..... German Measles: .....

Measles: ..... Mumps: ..... Scarlet Fever: .....

Whooping Cough: ..... Rheumatic Fever: ..... Infantile Paralysis: .....

Above-named has been IMMUNIZED in respect of:

Vaccination: ..... Tetanus: ..... Diphtheria: .....

Whooping Cough: ..... Others (Please name) .....

Has above-named at any time suffered from bed-wetting? .....

Any known irregularities of Bowel action? .....

What Laxative is usually preferred? (If any) .....

Any record of Tropical Disease? .....

Any operations in respect of Tonsils, Adenoids? (Please give details)

Any other Operations? .....

Any other Information which you think desirable the School Medical Advisers should know?

Pupil's Identity No.: .....

Date ...../...../.....

Signed: .....